**Add 1/2 + 1/3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1/2** |  |

**+**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1/3** |  |  |

**Notice that the overall size of our point of reference   
(The Whole) is EXACTLY the same.**

**Step #1** in our rule tells us that the denominators **must** be equal. And the **easiest way** to find a common denominator is to just **multiply** the denominators.

**So let's do that now...**

**2 x 3 = 6**

**The Common Denominator for 1/2 and 1/3 is 6**

**Step #2 -** Re-write each equivalent fractionusing this **new** denominator.

**Since...**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1/2** |  |

**1/2is equivalent to 3/6**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1/6** | **1/6** | **1/6** | **1/6** | **1/6** | **1/6** |

**And...**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1/3** |  |  |

**1/3 is equivalent to 2/6**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1/6** | **1/6** |  |  |  |  |

**We re-write our equation to read...**

**Add: 3/6 + 2/6**

Now we are ready to do **Step #3 - ADD** the numerators, and **keep** the denominator of the equivalent fractions (which is 6).

**So, we end up with...**

**3/6 + 2/6 = (3 + 2 )/6 = 5/6**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **3/6** |  |

**+**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2/6** |  |

**=**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **5/6** |  |

Finally, **Step #4 - Re-write** your answer as a **simplified or reduced fraction**, if needed.

In our example, the answer (**5/6**) is already in its **simplest form.** So, no further action is required!